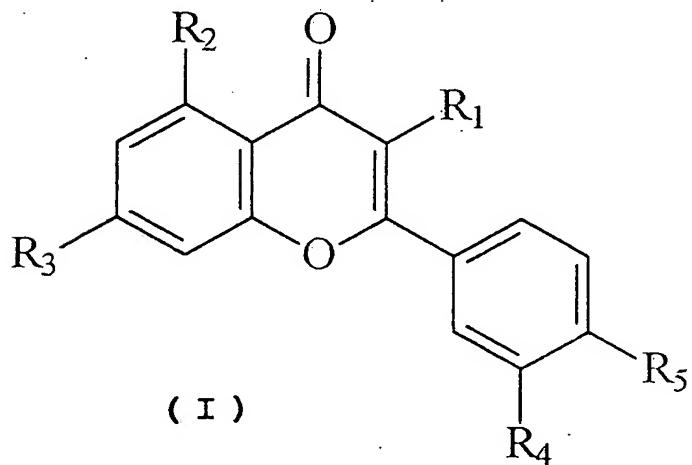


**A THERAPEUTIC AGENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS COMPRISING AN ACTIVE  
INGREDIENT OF QUERCETIN DERIVATIVES**

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a therapeutic agent  
10 for osteoporosis which comprises an active ingredient of  
quercetin derivatives, more specifically, to a therapeutic  
agent for osteoporosis comprising an active ingredient of  
quercetin derivatives represented by the following general  
formula(I) which effectively stimulate osteoblast  
15 proliferation and inhibit osteoclast proliferation.



20

Description of the Prior Art

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by the  
decrease of bone mass caused by mineral loss and the  
25 subsequent expansion of marrow cavity. Bones become  
brittle with the progress of the disease, and may be easily

fractured by a weak impact. Bone mass is affected by various factors such as genetic factors, nutritive condition, changes of hormone level, exercise and life style, and osteoporosis is known to be caused by aging, 5 lack of exercise, low body weight, smoking, low calcium diet, menopause, and ovariectomy. In women, decrease of bone mass begins at the age of 30, and around menopause, concentration of estrogen rapidly decreases and vast amount of B-lymphocytes are accumulated by the similar mechanism 10 to that of B-lymphocyte accumulation by IL-7(interleukin-7), and subsequent pre-B cell accumulation results in increased level of IL-6 which activates osteoclasts, thus, bone mass becomes decreased. In aged people, especially in women of 15 postmenopause, osteoporosis is not the avoidable disease although the severity of the symptom may vary, therefore, many research groups and pharmaceutical companies have made a great deal of efforts for development of therapeutic agents for bone diseases to prevent and treat osteoporosis upon an increase of elderly population.

20 Therapeutic agents for osteoporosis now being used include estrogen preparations, androgenic anabolic steroid preparations, calcium supplements, phosphate preparations, fluoride preparations, ipriflavone, vitamin D3, etc. In recent years, novel drugs for osteoporosis have been 25 developed, which include Aminobisphosphonate by Merck Co.(U.S.A.) in 1995 and Raloxifene which plays a role of selective estrogen receptor modulator(SERM) by Eli Lilly Co.(U.S.A.) in 1997.

30 Therapeutic agents for osteoporosis mentioned above are mostly estrogen substances which are known to cause adverse side effects such as cancer, cholelithiasis, and thrombosis. Since long term administration of drug is inevitable in the treatment of osteoporosis, there is a continuing need to develop novel effective agents which can 35 replace estrogen with high safety even when administered for a prolonged period of time.

As estrogen substitutes, phytoestrogens such as soybean isoflavone have been reported. Phytoestrogen, first reported in 1946, was found interim of verifying the cause of clover disease which was named for the high 5 increase(over 30%) of infertility of the sheep fed with red clover(*Trifolium subterraneum* var. Dwalganup). The cause of clover disease turned out to be an estrogen-like isoflavonoid contained in the plant, hence, the compound obtained from the plant has been named 'phytoestrogen'. 10 After that, compounds reported as phytoestrogen includes isoflavone compounds such as daidzein, genistein, formononetin, and biochanin A, coumestan compounds such as coumestrol, lignan compounds such as enterolactone, and phenol compounds such as enterodiol. Such phytoestrogens 15 exist mostly in the form of aglycone, 6'-O-acetylglucoside or 6'-O-malonylglucoside, and daidzein and genistein exist in the form of 7-O-glucoside. Among aforementioned compounds, glucosides are known to be hydrolysed with enterobacteria or gastric acid and absorbed in the form of 20 aglycone which is a free isoflavone. The researches have revealed that the said phytoestrogens function similarly to the animal estrogens. That is, the phytoestrogen inhibit proliferation of breast cancer cells by binding to the estrogen receptor and have been reported to be used as the 25 estrogen substitute for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and other symptoms occurring in the postmenopause women. However, the said phytoestrogens are not widely used for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis due to the insufficient pharmaceutical effectiveness and high 30 cost required for the isolation and purification from natural products.

Under the circumstances, are strong reasons for developing and exploring alternative compounds with safety and effectiveness for the treatment and prevention of 35 osteoporosis, which can be prepared in an economical manner.

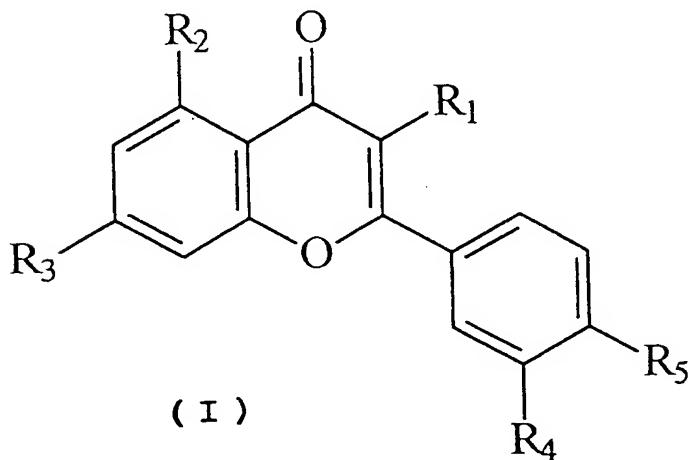
## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present inventors have made an effort to develop an effective substitute agent for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis, which is safe and economical, and have found that chemically synthesized quercetin derivatives have activities of stimulating osteoblast proliferation and inhibiting osteoclast proliferation, without any adverse side effects on internal organs, thus, quercetin derivative can be employed as an active ingredient of a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis.

A primary object of the present invention is, therefore, to provide a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis which comprises an active ingredient of quercetin derivatives.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 The present invention provides a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis which comprises an active ingredient of quercetin derivatives represented by the following general formula(I) and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers:



25

wherein,

R<sub>1</sub> is gentiotriose, glucopyranose, O-arabinofuranose, O-diglucopyranose, O-galactopyranose, O-galactoside-gallate, O-gentiobiose, O-glucopyranose, O-glucuronide, O-neohesperidose, O-rhamnopyranose, O-rutinose, 5 O-sophorose, O-xylopyranose, OCH<sub>3</sub>, OH, rhamnogentiobiose, rhamnoglucose or sulfate;

R<sub>2</sub> is OH or O-glucopyranose;

R<sub>3</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub>, OH, O-glucopyranose, O-glucuronopyranose or glucopyranose;

10 R<sub>4</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub> or OH; and,

R<sub>5</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub>, OH, O-glucopyranose or O-glucose.

Among the quercetin derivatives represented by general formula(I), well-known compounds are classified as 15 follows: (i) a derivative group of the formula I wherein R<sub>2</sub> to R<sub>5</sub> are OH and R<sub>1</sub> varies, includes quercetin where R<sub>1</sub> is OH, avicularoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranose, guiajaverin where R<sub>1</sub> is O-arabinopyranose, hyperoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, isohyperoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, isoquercitrin where R<sub>1</sub> is O-glucopyranose, multinoside A where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[ $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose], multinoside A acetate where R<sub>1</sub> is (6-O-acetyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, quercitrin where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, rutin where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-rutinose, 20 quercetin-3-O-(2"-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-(2"-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, quercetin-3-O-(6"-O-galloyl)-glucopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-(6"-O-galloyl)-glucopyranose, 25 quercetin-3-O-(6'"-O-p-coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranoside) where R<sub>1</sub> is O-(6'"-O-p-coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, quercetin-3-O-D-glucopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-D-glucopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, quercetin-3-O-[2"-O-6'"-O-p-(7""-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[2"-O-

6'”-O-p-(7””-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl)coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranose, quercetin-3-O-[6'”-p-coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl- $\beta$ -(1-4)-rhamnopyranoside] where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[6'”-p-coumaroyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl- $\beta$ -(1-4)-rhamnopyranose], quercetin-3-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1-2)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside] where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1-2)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose], quercetin-3-O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl(1-4) $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1-6) $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside] where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl(1-4) $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl(1-6) $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose], quercetin-3-O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)]-[ $\beta$ -glucopyranosyl-(1-6)]- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)]-[ $\beta$ -glucopyranosyl-(1-6)]- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, quercetin-3-O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -galactopyranoside] where R<sub>1</sub> is O-[ $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-4)- $\alpha$ -rhamnopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -galactopyranose], quercetin-3-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-2)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-diglucopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-diglucopyranose, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-galactoside-2"-gallate where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-galactoside-2"-gallate, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1-3)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1-6)- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranose, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucuronide where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-glucuronide, quercetin-3-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranose, quercetin-3-O-diglucopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-diglucopyranose, quercetin-3-O-gentiobioside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-gentiobiose, quercetin-3-O-glucopyranosylgalactopyranoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-glucopyranosylgalactopyranose, quercetin-3-O-neohesperidoside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-neohesperidose, quercetin-3-O-sophoroside where R<sub>1</sub> is O-sophorose, quercetin-3-gentiotrioside where R<sub>1</sub> is gentiotriose, quercetin-3-methyl ether where R<sub>1</sub> is OCH<sub>3</sub>, quercetin-3-rhamnogentiobioside

where  $R_1$  is rhamnogentiobiose, quercetin-3-rhamnoglucoside where  $R_1$  is rhamnoglucose, and quercetin-3-sulfate where  $R_1$  is sulfate; (ii) a derivative group of the formula I wherein  $R_1$  is -OH, three functional groups out of  $R_2$  to  $R_5$  are -OH, and the rest one functional group varies, includes isorhamnetin where  $R_4$  is  $OCH_3$ , quercimeritrin where  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, rhamnetin where  $R_3$  is  $OCH_3$ , quercetin-5- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside where  $R_2$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucuronopyranoside where  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucuronopyranose, and spireaoside where  $R_5$  is  $O$ -glucose; (iii) a derivative group of the formula I wherein three functional groups out of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are OH and the rest two functional groups vary, includes rhamnazin where  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are  $OCH_3$ , quercetin-3',4'-di-methyl ether where  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are  $OCH_3$ , quercetin-3,3'-dimethyl ether where  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are  $OCH_3$ , quercetin-3,7-dimethyl ether where  $R_1$  and  $R_3$  are  $OCH_3$ , quercetin-3- $O-[2''-O-(6''-O-p-coumaroyl)-\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha-L$ -rhamnopyranosyl-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O-[2''-O-(6''-O-p-coumaroyl)-\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha-L$ -rhamnopyranose and  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3- $O-[2''-O-6''-O-p-(7''-O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl)coumaroyl- $\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha-L$ -rhamnopyranoside-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O-[2''-O-6''-O-p-(7''-O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl)coumaroyl- $\beta-D$ -glucopyranosyl]- $\alpha-L$ -rhamnopyranose and  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3- $O$ -rutinoside-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O$ -rutinose and  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3- $O-\alpha-L$ -arabinopyranosyl-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O-\alpha-L$ -arabinopyranosyl and  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-7- $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranoside-3- $O$ -sophoroside where  $R_1$  is  $O$ -sophorose and  $R_3$  is  $O-\beta-D$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3- $O$ -galactopyranosyl-7- $O$ -diglucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O$ -galactopyranose and  $R_3$  is  $O$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3- $O$ -glucopyranosyl-7-diglucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is  $O$ -glucopyranose and  $R_3$  is  $O$ -glucopyranose, quercetin-3,7-diglucopyranoside where  $R_1$  is glucopyranose and  $R_3$  is glucopyranose, quercetin-3-gentiobiosyl-7-glucopyranoside

where  $R_1$  is gentiobiose and  $R_3$  is glucopyranose, and quercetin-3,4'-di-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside where  $R_1$  and  $R_5$  are O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranose; and (iv) a derivative group of the formula I wherein more than three functional groups vary, 5 includes quercetin-3,4',7-trimethyl ether where  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are  $OCH_3$ , and  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are OH, and quercetin-3,3',4',7-tetramethyl ether where  $R_1$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are  $OCH_3$ , and  $R_2$  is OH.

10 Quercetin having same OH groups in  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  of the above general formula(I) is a phenolic compound found in over 4000 kinds of plants in nature and is known as one of the phytoestrogens. It has a molecular formula of  $C_{15}H_{10}O_7$  with resonance structures and a molecular weight of 302.33  
15 g/mole and also known as vitamin P following the chemical structure identification in 1936. Quercetin is a rutin, a glycoside wherein sugar is linked via  $\beta$ -linkage and widely distributed in plants such as clover flower, pollen of common ragweed, and shell and stem of various plants, as  
20 well as in onion, kale, broccoli, lettuce, tomato, and apple. Quercetin has been verified not only to play an important role in maintenance of capillary wall integrity and capillary resistance(see: Gabor et al., *Plant Flavonoids in Biology and Medicine II: Biochemical, 25 Cellular, and Medical Properties*, 280: 1-15, 1988; Havsteen et al., *Biochemical Pharmacology*, 32:1141-1148, 1983) but also to have antioxidation activity, vitamin P activity, ultraviolet absorbing activity, antihypertensive activity, antiarrhythmic activity, antiinflammatory activity,  
30 antiallergic activity, anticholesteremic activity, suppressive activity on liver toxicity, and therapeutic effect on infertility, thus, it may be expected to use quercetin widely in foods, medical and pharmaceutical products, and cosmetics. However, there has been no report  
35 on the use of quercetin for prevention and treatment of osteoporosis.

The therapeutic agent for osteoporosis of the invention comprising an active ingredient of quercetin derivative is illustrated below.

5 In order to search for the effects of quercetin derivatives on proliferation of osteoblasts and osteoclasts, the present inventors compared the effect of quercetin with that of phytoestrogen genistein which is known to be an effective agent for treatment of osteoporosis, and have  
10 found that quercetin has superior effects to genistein for activation of osteoblast proliferation, increase of alkaline phosphatase activity, and inhibition of osteoclast proliferation.

15 Furthermore, in ovariectomized rats, administration of quercetin derivatives has been found not to bring about changes in hormone level, proving that quercetin is a safe agent not causing uterine hypertrophy, an adverse side effect of estradiol which is being used as a therapeutic  
20 agent for osteoporosis currently. Also, quercetin derivatives were shown to be more effective than estradiol on increase of trabecular bone area of tibia which is apt to drastic change in trabecular bone area, and to have no adverse effect on hematopoietic function and immune system.

25 Therefore, quercetin derivatives of the invention, based on above results, have been found not only to have superior effects to currently using phytoestrogen genistein for activation of osteoblast proliferation and inhibition  
30 of osteoclast proliferation but also to have little side effects, bring about little change in hormone level and have no adverse effect on hematopoietic function and immune system, substantiating the use of quercetin derivatives as a therapeutic or preventive agent for osteoporosis.

The said quercetin derivatives having superior effect on treatment of osteoporosis may be mixed with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients including binders such as polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydroxypropylcellulose, etc.,

5 disintegrating agents such as calcium carboxymethylcellulose, sodium glycolate starch, etc., diluting agents such as corn starch, lactose, soybean oil, crystalline cellulose, mannitol, etc., lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate, talc, etc., sweeteners such as

10 sucrose, fructose, sorbitol, aspartame, etc., stabilizing agents such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose,  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin, vitamin C, citric acid, white wax, etc, preservatives such as paraoxymethylbenzoate, paraoxypropylbenzoate, sodium benzoate, etc., and aromatics

15 such as ethylvanillin, masking flavor, flavonomenthol, herb flavor, etc. to prepare pharmaceutical formulations for oral or parenteral administration such as tablets, capsules, soft capsules, liquids, ointments, pills, powders, suspensions, emulsions, syrups, suppositories or injections.

20 Also, to augment efficacy of prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, calcium or vitamin D<sub>3</sub> may be added to the formulations. For parenteral administration of the pharmaceutical preparation of the invention, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular or intraperitoneal injection may

25 be employed. For parenteral administration, quercetin derivative may be mixed with stabilizer or buffer in water to prepare solution or suspension which can be produced as single-dose formulations of ampule or vial.

30 Dosage

The effective amount of quercetin in the therapeutic agent for osteoporosis of the invention is 2 to 20mg/kg, preferably 8 to 12mg/kg, which may be administered to the

35 patient more than once a day depending on the patient's age, gender, degree of seriousness, way of administration, or purpose of prevention.

Safety

The toxicity of the quercetin derivatives of the 5 invention has been reported in the literature(see: M. Sullivan et al., *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 77:269, 1951) for the cases of oral administration and intraperitoneal administration to the mice, and LD<sub>50</sub> of orally administered quercetin was not less than 160mg/kg, approving that 10 quercetin is safe. In the present invention, liver, kidney, brain, uterus, skin and tibia were examined for the side effect of quercetin, which revealed that the weight of liver, kidney, brain, skin and tibia was not affected, moreover, uterine hypertrophy, a side effect of currently 15 used therapeutic agents, was not observed with quercetin, proving that quercetin derivative as a hormone preparation can be used safely as a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis.

The present invention is further illustrated in the 20 following examples, which should not be taken to limit the scope of the invention.

Example 1: Effect of quercetin on osteoblast 25 proliferation

To analyse the effect of quercetin on osteoblast proliferation, human osteoblast-like cell line Saos-2 was employed and a phytoestrogen genistein was employed as a comparative agent which has been intensively studied as a 30 therapeutic agent for osteoporosis.

Example 1-1: Selection and culture of osteoblasts

Saos-2 cell line which has similar properties to 35 osteoblasts was obtained from Korean Cell Line Bank affiliated to the Cancer Research Institute of School of Medicine, Seoul National University.

5 Saos-2 cells were seeded in a RPMI 1640 medium(Gibco BRL, U.S.A.) supplemented with 10%(v/v) FBS, 100unit/ml penicillin, 100  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin and grown to form a monolayer in an incubator at 37°C under an environment of 5%(v/v) CO<sub>2</sub> and saturated humidity. The culture was fed with fresh medium 2 to 3 times a week and subcultured once a week using 0.25%(w/v) trypsin.

10 Example 1-2: Cell proliferation depending on concentrations of the agents

15 Saos-2 cells were distributed into a 96-well plate(20,000 cells/well) and quercetin in 1% DMSO was added to a final concentration of 10<sup>-2</sup> to 10<sup>-9</sup>mg/ml, 6 wells per each concentration. As a control group, cells without quercetin were used, and as a comparative group, the cells treated with various concentrations of genistein, being studied as a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis, were used. 20 Cells were grown in an incubator at 37°C for 3 days and incubated 4 more hours under the same condition after adding MTT(3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, Triazolyl Blue) to a concentration of 0.05mg/ml. Then, purple colored formazan 25 formed in proportion to the number of viable cells was dissolved in DMSO and measured OD at 550nm employing ELISA reader.

30 Cell proliferation rate(%) was evaluated by calculating the ratio of the OD of quercetin added well to the OD of control well, wherein, average value of ODs from 6 wells treated with the same concentration of quercetin was employed(see: Table 1).

35 cell proliferation rate(%)= {(average value of OD at 550nm of quercetin-treated wells - average value of OD at 550nm

of empty wells)/average value of OD at 550nm of control wells}X100

5                   Example 1-3: Analysis of alkaline phosphatase(ALP) activity

10                  Since osteoblasts have cell specific alkaline phosphatase activity, the effect of quercetin of the invention on ALP activity in osteoblasts was evaluated as follows: the number of cells, concentration of tested agent, and culture condition were same as those used in MTT experiment of Example 1-2, and cells were harvested after 3 day-incubation. Genistein was used as a comparative agent. 15                  ALP activity was evaluated by analysing changes of OD at 405nm result from hydrolysis of p-nitrophenylphosphate to p-nitrophenol and phosphate(see: Table 1).

Table 1: Effect of quercetin on osteoblast proliferation

Concent ration (mg/ml)	Quercetin (% of control group)		Genistein (% of control group)	
	MTT assay	ALP activity	MTT assay	ALP activity
Control group	100.0 ±2.5	100.0 ±1.6	100.0 ±0.6	100.0 ±7.3
1 ×10 <sup>-9</sup>	93.1 ±0.8*	98.1 ±0.0	91.3 ±0.6*	106.1 ±6.4
1 ×10 <sup>-8</sup>	93.9 ±0.8	104.4 ±3.9	96.9 ±2.7	101.5 ±8.8
1 ×10 <sup>-7</sup>	98.6 ±1.0	101.2 ±3.1	95.9 ±1.6	109.3 ±9.6
1 ×10 <sup>-6</sup>	96.0 ±1.0	127.2 ±3.5**	90.5 ±0.9**	103.8 ±8.7
1 ×10 <sup>-5</sup>	95.8 ±1.1	116.5 ±3.7	97.3 ±1.6	113.5 ±7.3
1 ×10 <sup>-4</sup>	96.5 ±0.8	113.5 ±2.3	95.7 ±0.7	121.1 ±6.2
1 ×10 <sup>-3</sup>	98.3 ±0.8	107.3 ±1.5	85.5 ±1.1**	98.8 ±6.9
1 ×10 <sup>-2</sup>	108.6 ±2.2**	106.1 ±4.3	66.2 ±2.8**	62.3 ±3.4

20                  \*: p<0.05

\*\*: p<0.01

As shown in Table 1 above, in the cell proliferation experiment using MTT method, the cells treated with various concentrations of quercetin in the range of  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mg/ml did not show any difference from the control cells which were not treated with the agent, while quercetin showed maximum cell proliferation effect of 109% of control cell proliferation at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mg/ml ( $p < 0.01$ ). On the other hand, genistein, a comparative agent, showed 91% ( $p < 0.05$ ) at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  mg/ml, 90.5% ( $p < 0.01$ ) at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  mg/ml, 86% ( $p < 0.01$ ) at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mg/ml, and 66% ( $p < 0.01$ ) at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mg/ml, implying that genistein exert rather inhibitory effect than stimulatory effect on proliferation of osteoblasts.

In the experiment of assaying ALP activity, quercetin showed its maximum ALP activation effect of 127% ( $p < 0.01$ ) of control ALP activity at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  mg/ml, while genistein showed its maximum ALP activation activity of 121% at a concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  mg/ml, indicating that the ALP activation effect of quercetin of the invention is about 100 fold higher than that of genistein. Therefore, quercetin of the invention is more effective on the stimulation of osteoblast proliferation and activation of ALP activity than genistein which is studied intensively as a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis in recent years.

Example 2: Effect of quercetin on osteoclast proliferation  
30

To examine whether quercetin have inhibitory effect on the proliferation of osteoclasts, experiments were carried out as followings.

35 Example 2-1: Selection and culture of osteoclasts

ICR mice(Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology, Taejon, Korea) were fed with calcium deficient diet(ICN Biomedicals, Inc., Ohio, U.S.A.) for 4 weeks to activate osteoclasts. The right and left tibiae and femurs of the calcium deficient rats were removed avoiding contamination of surrounding muscle tissues. Femurs and right and left tibiae, classified on the clean bench and kept on ice separately, were added into the  $\alpha$ -MEM containing 100  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin and then vigorously shaken respectively to extract osteoclasts into the medium. After kept on ice for 5 minutes, the cell suspension was centrifuged at 800xg for 3 minutes and the cell pellet was resuspended in a  $\alpha$ -MEM nutrient medium supplemented with 10% FBS, 100  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin and 100unit/ml penicillin. The cell suspension was distributed into wells of a 24-well plate at a cell number of  $3.5 \times 10^6$ /well.

Example 2-2: Cell proliferation depending on concentrations of quercetin

To the osteoclasts obtained in Example 2-1 above, quercetin was added to yield concentrations of  $1 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-2}$ mg/ml. On day 2, the cells were subjected to tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase(TRAP) staining using a commercially available kit(Sigma Chemical Co., U.S.A.), followed by counting of osteoclasts which are TRAP-positive multinucleated cells(MNC), judged by more than three nuclei in a cell stained red(see: Table 2).

Table 2: Effect of quercetin on osteoclast proliferation

Concentration (mg/ml)	Number of osteoclast (% of control group)
Control group	100.0 $\pm$ 8.1
$1 \times 10^{-8}$	100.9 $\pm$ 1.8
$1 \times 10^{-6}$	96.8 $\pm$ 2.7
$1 \times 10^{-4}$	89.6 $\pm$ 3.2

$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$61.1 \pm 4.1^*$
$1 \times 10^{-2}$	$24.7 \pm 5.7^{**}$

\*:  $p < 0.05$ ,

\*\*:  $p < 0.01$

As shown in Table 2 above, while quercetin at 5 concentrations between  $1 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ mg/ml exerted little inhibitory effect on the osteoclast proliferation, the cell numbers at quercetin concentration of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$ mg/ml and  $1 \times 10^{-2}$ mg/ml was 61%( $p < 0.05$ %) and 25% of control cell number respectively, showing that quercetin exerted remarkable 10 inhibitory effect on the osteoclast proliferation.

Based on the results of Examples 1 and 2, it was clearly demonstrated that quercetin is a potential therapeutic agent for osteoporosis which exerts 15 stimulatory effect on osteoblast proliferation and inhibitory effect on osteoclast proliferation at a concentration of  $10^{-2}$ mg/ml.

Example 3: Effect of quercetin on ovariectomized rats

20

Female SD(Sprague-Dawley) rats, a model animal for type I osteoporosis occurring after menopause - were employed for evaluating pharmacological effectiveness of quercetin. Female rats(10 weeks old) weighing 200 to 300g, 25 obtained from the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology were employed as experimental animals. Experiment was carried out by the procedure which comprises removing ovary, administration of agents to the each group of rats, and at certain days after ovariectomy, 30 the rats were sacrificed and subjected to analyses including measurement of body weight, examination of internal organs, measurement of trabecular bone area, complete blood count, and biochemical analyses of plasma.

35 Example 3-1: Ovariectomy and administration of the agents

Rats of control group and test group, except Sham group(normal group), were ovariectomized as follows: a female rat was systemic anesthetized by intramuscular injection with 5mg/100g Ketamin(Yuhan Corporation, Korea) and 1mg/100g Xylazine(Beyer Korea, Korea) to the femur muscle of left and right hind limbs, and then, fur of lower abdominal region was shaved, operation area was sterilized with Potadin liquid(Iodine, Samil Pharm. Co., Ltd., Korea) in lying position, about 2cm of abdominal skin, abdominal muscle, and peritoneum was cut in the middle under aseptic condition, ovary was exposed using sterilized forceps, followed by removal of both left and right ovaries after ligaturing of oviducts using silk threads. Subsequently, 0.3ml of antibiotics(Sulfaforte<sup>®</sup>-4, Yoonee Chemical Co., Ltd., Korea) was injected intraperitoneally to prevent infection, and then peritoneum, abdominal muscle and skin were sutured with silk threads or nylon threads.

The Sham group, animals operated upon for the surgery as in the ovariectomized rats except for removing ovary, were employed to compare the changes caused solely by ovariectomy in control group which were ovariectomized but no agent was administered. Control group was employed to compare the changes caused by administration of agents in test group which were ovariectomized and administered with testing agents.

When test agents were administered, for a certain period of time before and after administration, 1.5ml of blood was sampled from tail vein using a catheter(B.D Co.: 24G) and subjected to complete blood count(Coulter Co.: JT) and biochemical analyses of plasma(Crone Co.: Airon<sup>®</sup> 200). During autopsy, blood was sampled from caudal venae cavae and subjected to the analyses above. And then, each sample was frozen to store for measurement of trabecular bone area of femur and examination of internal organs.

One week after operation, rats in Sham group and control group were intraperitoneally injected with 10% Tween 80 solution, the rats in E2 group were injected with 17 $\beta$ -estradiol at a concentration of 1  $\mu$ g/kg/day, the rats in test group were injected with quercetin or genistein at a concentration of 10mg/kg/day for 9 weeks, and the rats in each group were subjected to body weight measurement once a week. During the period of administration, blood was sampled once a week. After 9-week administration, entire blood was withdrawn with heparin treatment. Following complete blood count(CBC), the blood was centrifuged at 3,000rpm for 20 minutes to obtain plasma which was stored at -70°C until use. For measurement of bone mineral density, the lumbar spine L5 and L6, and right tibia were removed and stored separately in 4%(v/v) formalin solution.

Example 3-2: Body weight change depending on quercetin administration

The body weight of the rats in Sham group, E2 group treated with 17 $\beta$ -estradiol and test group treated with quercetin or genistein respectively, was measured once a week for 10 weeks after operation(see: Table 3).

Table 3: Mesurement of body weight changes depending on drug administration

Time (week)	Weight(g)				
	Control group	Sham group	E2-treated group	Quercetin -treated group	Genistein- treated group
Before operat ion	219.39 $\pm$ 4 .05	220.70 $\pm$ 4.6 3	228.51 $\pm$ 8.1 1	221.87 $\pm$ 7. 57	217.55 $\pm$ 7.2 4
1 after operat ion	244.98 $\pm$ 3 .00	231.51 $\pm$ 4.6 8	249.50 $\pm$ 8.1 6	241.73 $\pm$ 4. 83	242.12 $\pm$ 5.9 6

2 after operat ion	274.29±3 .68**	236.40±5.0 6**	264.97±8.3 5	271.70±5. 79**	270.00±8.0 5**
3 after operat ion	299.37±3 .74**	245.56±4.7 9**	279.87±8.1 5**	295.00±3. 89**	296.20±7.6 8**
4 after operat ion	315.20±3 .84**	248.96±5.0 2**	292.83±9.2 5**	312.07±5. 95**	310.80±7.8 0**
5 after operat ion	320.30±4 .83**	255.43±5.1 4**	296.96±9.4 4**	320.25±6. 76**	317.29±7.9 3**
6 after operat ion	329.03±5 .05**	261.49±6.4 6**	304.49±8.4 0**	326.68±6. 73**	327.19±8.3 1**
7 after operat ion	337.39±5 .93**	264.78±5.5 3**	313.04±8.7 3**	333.25±7. 61**	332.80±9.2 3**
8 after operat ion	340.01±6 .60**	268.16±5.4 0**	315.87±8.3 2**	335.09±6. 65**	336.38±9.0 1**
9 after operat ion	347.96±7 .58**	273.81±4.5 4**	319.95±9.4 7**	343.02±6. 96**	342.71±8.2 6**
10 after operat ion	356.73±7 .13**	275.22±4.3 0**	320.00±5.9 0**	346.27±6. 39**	347.23±7.5 7**

\*: p<0.05, \*\*: p<0.01, compared with before operation

#: p<0.05, ##: p<0.01, compared with control group

As shown in Table 3, body weight of Sham group began to increase 3 weeks(p<0.05) after operation and that of control group began to increase 2 weeks(p<0.01) after operation. That is, control group showed rapid increase of body weight compare to Sham group, and such increase of body weight was slowed down after administration of estradiol, and E2 group showed slower increase of body

5 weight compare to control group( $p<0.05$ ) 20 weeks after operation. Meanwhile, the test group administered with phytoestrogen quercetin or genistein at a concentration of 10mg/kg/day respectively showed rapid increase of body weight even after removing ovary similar to control group. Thus, quercetin administration was found not to bring about meaningful changes in hormone level in the body.

10 Example 3-3: Changes in the weight of internal organ by quercetin

15 To find out quercetin effect on internal organ of test animal, liver, kidney, brain, uterus, skin, and tibia were removed from the test animals administered with test agents for 9 weeks after operation and wet weight of each organ was measured(see: Table 4).

20 Table 4: Changes in the weight of internal organ after drug administration

	Control group	Sham group	E2-treated group	Quercetin-treated group	Genistein-treated group
Liver (g)	9.84±0.33	9.52±0.48	9.22±0.43	9.07±0.30	10.03±0.36
Kidney (g)	1.95±0.09	1.91±0.05	1.85±0.09	1.84±0.05	1.83±0.03
Brain (g)	2.03±0.04	1.93±0.02	1.98±0.05	1.98±0.04	1.98±0.03
Tibia (g)	0.559±0.025	0.514±0.013	0.504±0.019	0.554±0.019	0.537±0.008
Skin (mg)	193±7	169±8	193±6	197±11	188±9
Uterus (mg)	7.9±4	450±29**	279±10**	85±6	106±3

\*\*:  $p<0.01$

25 As shown in Table 4, in case of the weight of liver, kidney, brain, tibia, and skin, normal Sham group, ovariectomized control group and test group did not show

5 differences among groups. However, in case of weight of uterus which is affected by the estrogen secreted from ovary, ovariectomized control group showed significant decrease( $p<0.01$ ) compare to Sham group, and administration of E2 after removing ovary suppressed atrophy of uterus( $p<0.01$ ) compare to control group. Administration of phytoestrogen quercetin or genistein did not give rise to change in weight of uterus, on the other hand, E2 which is a currently used therapeutic agent for osteoporosis showed 10 side effect such as uterine hypertrophy, showing that quercetin can be used safely as a therapeutic agent for osteoporosis without adverse side effect.

15 Example 3-4: Changes in the trabecular bone area by quercetin

20 Trabecular bone area(TBA) of lumbar and tibia removed from the rats of each group which was treated with various agents for 9 weeks were measured as follows: that is, using a digitalizer of quantitative image analysis system(Wild Leitz Co.), image of each trabecula was obtained on computer monitor by drawing a contour of the trabecula, and then, using a computer, calculated were average areas of 25 trabeculae within a rectangle of  $2 \times 10^6 \mu\text{m}^2$  area wherein the width is about 2/3 of the length of growth plate which located underneath of growth plate at proximity of tibia. Also, following the number of trabeculae within the rectangle were obtained, average area was multiplied by the 30 number of trabeculae to obtain trabecular bone area of each sample bone, which was analyzed statistically(see: Table 5).

Table 5: Changes in the trabecular bone area of tibia depending on drug administration

	TBA ( $\times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$ )	Change Rate(%)
Control group	$34.62 \pm 2.62$	$100.00 \pm 7.55$

Sham group	85.55 $\pm$ 5.31**	247.07 $\pm$ 15.33**
E2-treated group	51.40 $\pm$ 2.28	148.46 $\pm$ 6.59
Quercetin-treated group	55.52 $\pm$ 7.68*	160.34 $\pm$ 22.17*
Genistein-treated group	47.65 $\pm$ 2.07	137.62 $\pm$ 5.98

\*: p<0.05,

\*\*: p<0.01

As shown in Table 5, in case of tibia, the TBA of control group was  $34.62 \times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$  which is a significantly decreased value compare to normal Sham group of  $85.55 \times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$  (p<0.01), showing that osteoporosis have occurred in control group, and such decreased TBA was increased again by treatment with E2, quercetin or genistein to 148%, 160%, and 138% of TBA of control group respectively, especially in case of quercetin, remarkable increase of TBA was monitored(p<0.05).

TBAs of lumbars removed from the animal treated with test agents for 9 weeks were measured employing the same method above(see: Table 6).

Table 6: Changes in the trabecular bone area of lumbars depending on drug administration

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	TBA ( $\times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$ )	Change Rate (%)
Control group	67.53 $\pm$ 2.31	100.00 $\pm$ 3.42
Sham group	93.70 $\pm$ 5.29**	138.76 $\pm$ 7.84**
E2-treated group	89.16 $\pm$ 2.83**	132.04 $\pm$ 4.19**
Quercetin-treated group	87.38 $\pm$ 4.53*	129.40 $\pm$ 6.71*
Genistein-treated group	86.58 $\pm$ 3.00*	128.23 $\pm$ 4.45*

\*: p<0.05,

\*\*: p<0.01

As shown in Table 6, in case of lumbar, the TBA of control group was  $67.53 \times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$  which is a decreased value compare to Sham group of  $93.70 \times 10^4 \mu\text{m}^2$  ( $p < 0.01$ ), but, such 5 decreased TBA was increased again by treatment with E2, quercetin or genistein to 132% ( $p < 0.01$ ), 129% ( $p < 0.05$ ) and 128% ( $p < 0.05$ ) of TBA of control group respectively, showing that these test agents exerted suppressing effect on decrease of TBA caused by ovariectomy. Especially, 10 quercetin showed more significant increase of TBA in tibia which is apt to drastic change in TBA than E2 a currently used therapeutic agent for osteoporosis, showing that quercetin is a more effective therapeutic agent not causing uterine hypertrophy which is an adverse side effect caused 15 by E2.

Example 3-5: Complete blood count

Complete blood count which reflects the condition and 20 abnormality of the body was measured to find out abnormality in test animals caused by administration of agents. That is, to find out changes in hematopoiesis of test rats, measured were red blood cell(RBC) count, concentration of hemoglobin(Hb) and hematocrit(Ht) of blood 25 samples obtained from the rats prior to operation and the rats 10 weeks after administrating agents following operation, and to find out changes in immune system such as inflammation and necrosis of tissues, measured were white blood cell count, lymphocyte count, monocyte count, and 30 granulocyte count (see: Table 7).

Table 7: Changes in Complete blood count depending on drug administration

	Operation	Control group	Sham group	E2-treated group	Quercetin-treated group	Genistein-treated group
Red blood cell(RBC) count ( $\times 10^6$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	bef ore	7.36±0.11	7.19±0.11	7.33±0.13	7.29±0.15	7.32±0.13
	aft er	7.08±0.09	6.75±0.24	6.97±0.14	7.13±0.15	7.17±0.13
Concentration of hemoglobin(Hb) (g/dl)	bef ore	16.09±0.21	15.75±0.20	15.86±0.24	16.00±0.30	15.82±0.27
	aft er	14.58±0.20**	14.09±0.48**	14.34±0.29**	14.84±0.22*	14.70±0.22**
Hematocrit(Ht) (%)	bef ore	43.34±0.48	43.09±0.61	43.11±0.55	43.62±0.83	42.76±0.65
	aft er	39.48±0.60**	38.39±0.24**	38.86±0.72**	41.10±0.68*	40.66±0.56*
White blood cell count ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	bef ore	26.13±4.63	25.61±3.64	23.14±1.50	20.28±3.77	27.30±4.85
	aft er	21.66±2.89	12.74±2.88*	13.26±0.97**	18.50±7.60	21.50±2.53
Lymphocyte count ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	bef ore	22.14±4.49	18.04±2.38	17.80±1.72	16.78±3.52	19.68±4.52
	aft er	21.20±9.00	10.20±2.88	10.23±0.96**	15.00±7.71	15.25±3.21
Monocyte count ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	bef ore	1.02±0.18	0.73±0.17	1.44±0.29	0.65±0.07	0.77±0.09
	aft er	1.10±0.21	0.95±0.14	1.02±0.24	1.00±0.20	0.80±0.19
Granulocyte count ( $\times 10^3$ cells/ $\mu$ l)	bef ore	2.99±0.44	2.83±0.39	3.67±0.40	2.80±0.30	2.23±0.10
	aft er	2.52±0.21	1.93±0.26	1.99±0.25**	2.43±0.12	2.38±0.37

\*:  $p < 0.05$ ,

5 \*\*:  $p < 0.01$

As shown in Table 7, RBC count did not show any changes before and after operation in all groups, and concentration of hemoglobin and hematocrit were decreased after operation in all groups. White blood cell count did not show any changes before and after operation in quercetin or genistein treated groups, but decreased in Sham group and E2 group after operation. Also, lymphocyte

and granulocyte count showed rapid decrease in E2 group only, and monocyte count was stayed same in entire groups. Thus, quercetin was found to be a safe agent not disturbing hematopoiesis and immune system of the body.

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Example 3-6: Biochemical changes of plasma by quercetin

Since blood reflects the condition of body, safety of quercetin in the body was evaluated by measuring biochemical parameters: that is, blood samples were obtained from the rat prior to operation, one week after operation, and 10 weeks after operation, and measured were levels of alkaline phosphatase(ALP), calcium, inorganic phosphate, blood urea nitrogen(BUN), creatinin, total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol (see: Table 8).

Table 8: Changes in biochemical parameters in plasma depending on drug administration

	Operation	Control group	Sham group	E2-treated group	Quercetin-treated group	Genistein-treated group
Concentration of ALP (U/dL)	before	262.75±23.31	245.59±22.05	196.01±28.34	232.83±20.27	208.86±19.72
	1 week after	265.75±22.78	215.18±20.22	195.24±27.87	226.67±23.20	212.10±17.92
	10 weeks after	198.31±14.64	135.09±18.64 <sup>**s</sup>	123.99±22.18	156.42±13.08	127.14±9.9.5 <sup>**ss</sup>
Concentration of calcium (mg/dL)	before	10.48±0.43	10.57±0.55	10.86±0.40	10.73±0.48	10.61±0.49
	1 week after	9.98±0.34	10.35±0.17	10.03±0.18	8.37±0.24 <sup>**s</sup>	8.97±0.29 <sup>#</sup>
	10 weeks after	10.83±0.16	11.79±0.23 <sup>**s</sup>	11.20±0.16 <sup>s</sup>	10.26±0.19 <sup>s</sup>	10.44±0.22 <sup>s</sup>
Concentration of inorganic phosphate (mg/dL)	before	6.52±0.39	6.87±0.62	6.90±0.52	6.79±0.66	7.18±0.48
	1 week after	6.27±0.31	6.59±0.20	6.13±0.12	6.21±0.18	6.47±0.16
	10 weeks after	4.95±0.41 <sup>**</sup>	6.09±0.47	5.51±0.45	5.73±0.58	5.62±0.25 <sup>#</sup>

Concentration of blood urea nitrogen (BUN) (mg/dL)	before	18.56±0.9 2	17.13±1.1 1	18.36±1.0 1	17.05±0.6 0	16.82±0.60
	1 week after	18.31±0.7 0	16.75±0.5 8	17.79±0.7 6	18.06±0.8 8	18.26±0.94
	10 weeks after	21.20±1.0 6	19.23±0.8 4	19.99±0.8 6	18.19±0.4 1	18.31±0.86
Concentration of creatinine in (mg/dL)	before	0.54±0.05	0.56±0.06	0.55±0.05	0.57±0.05	0.51±0.04
	1 week after	0.54±0.05	0.62±0.04	0.57±0.03	0.59±0.01	0.64±0.02*
	10 weeks after	0.78±0.03 ##\$	0.80±0.03 ##	0.81±0.03 ##\$	0.82±0.04 ##\$	0.82±0.04##\$
Concentration of total cholesterol (mg/dL)	before	72.66±5.0 0	79.67±1.7 3	76.79±2.8 0	77.55±5.1 3	85.51±5.45
	1 week after	93.32±4.7 5#	79.75±2.4 6	95.53±4.1 7	85.84±3.8 2	91.56±3.65
	10 weeks after	120.44±5. 21##\$	88.60±4.8 7##"	115.05±5. 75##\$	107.73±2. 24##	121.07±6.5 3##
Concentration of HDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)	before	53.78±2.7 7	52.33±2.6 1	52.30±2.0 1	53.38±3.1 4	61.12±3.57
	1 week after	46.20±0.6 2	41.69±1.4 7	49.03±3.3 7	42.49±4.8 5	35.26±1.92#
	10 weeks after	29.60±2.6 3##\$	22.32±2.4 9##\$	24.94±2.7 2##\$	25.13±2.7 8##	29.27±1.98#
Concentration of LDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)	before	18.88±3.1 5	26.63±3.0 4	24.49±1.6 3	24.17±3.1 3	24.39±3.63
	1 week after	42.80±6.4 1##	36.30±0.6 3	40.50±6.1 7	40.85±4.8 8	60.47±7.04#
	10 weeks after	90.84±4.2 7##\$	69.29±3.0 5##\$	88.33±4.7 4##\$	82.60±4.8 5##\$	91.80±6.57# ##\$

\*: p<0.05, \*\*: p<0.01, compared with control group

#: p<0.05, ##: p<0.01, compared with before operation

\$: p<0.05, \$\$: p<0.01, compared with 1 week after operation

5 As shown in Table 8, ALP activity which is directly related to bone metabolism showed tendency of decrease with aging in entire groups, especially, in Sham group and genistein treated group, the rats of 10 weeks after operation showed significant decrease of ALP activity and no change in calcium concentration compare to the rats prior to operation and one week after operation. And, the level of inorganic phosphate remarkably decreased in the

10

rats of 10 weeks after operation compare to the rats prior to operation in control group and genistein treated group.

While the level of blood urea nitrogen which is related to the protein metabolism and muscle volume was 5 maintained at a proper level in entire groups, the level of creatinin increased in entire groups.

The level of total cholesterol which is known to increase in postmenopause women increased in entire groups, although increase in Sham group was relatively low. While 10 the level of HDL-cholesterol decreased with time in entire groups, the level of LDL-cholesterol increased with time, which were found in normal Sham group as well as ovariectomized groups.

Thus, the quercetin of the invention was found to be 15 an effective therapeutic and preventive agent for osteoporosis.

Example 4: The formulation of the quercetin preparation

20 Example 4-1: Syrup

The syrup formulation containing 2%(w/v) quercetin, its derivatives or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof was prepared as follows: quercetin hydrochloride, 25 saccharine and sugar were dissolved in 80g of warm water, cooled down, and then mixed with a solution containing glycerin, saccharine, aromatics, ethanol, sorbic acid and distilled water. Water was added to the mixture prepared above to give 100ml of syrup formulation of quercetin, 30 whose components are as follows:

quercetin hydrochloride .....	2g
saccharine .....	0.8g
sugar .....	25.4g
35 glycerin .....	8.0g
aromatics .....	0.04g
ethanol .....	4.0g

sorbic acid ..... 0.4g  
distilled water ..... a proper quantity

Example 4-2: Tablet

5

The tablet containing quercetin, its derivatives or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof was prepared as follows: 250g of flavonoid derivative of quercetin hydrochloride was mixed with 175.9g of lactose, 10 180g of potato starch, and 32g of colloidal silicate, and then 10%(w/v) gelatin solution was added. After pulverization, the mixture was passed through a 14-mesh sieve, dried, and mixed with 160g of potato starch, 50g of talc, and 5g of magnesium stearate to give tablets, whose 15 components are as follows:

flavonoid derivative of quercetin · hydrochloride · 250g  
lactose ..... 175.9g  
potato starch ..... 180g  
20 colloidal silicate ..... 32g  
10%(w/v) gelatin solution ..... a proper quantity  
potato starch ..... 160g  
talc ..... 50g  
magnesium stearate ..... 5g

25

Example 4-3: Injection

One gram of flavonoid derivative of quercetin · hydrochloride, 0.6g NaCl, and 0.1g of ascorbic 30 acid were dissolved in distilled water to give a final volume of 100ml, and then the solution was put into a vial, which was sterilized by heating at 100°C for 30 minutes to give the injection. The components of the said injection are as follows:

35

flavonoid derivative of quercetin · hydrochloride ..... 1g  
NaCl ..... 0.6g

ascorbic acid ..... 0.1g  
distilled water ..... a proper quantity

As clearly illustrated and demonstrated above, the  
5 present invention provides a therapeutic agent for  
osteoporosis comprising an active ingredient of quercetin  
derivatives which effectively stimulate osteoblast  
proliferation and inhibit osteoclast proliferation. The  
10 quercetin derivatives of the invention can be practically  
applied for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis,  
since they effectively inhibit osteoclast proliferation and  
stimulate osteoblast proliferation more than conventional  
therapeutic agents for osteoporosis, and increase  
15 trabecular bone area highly without changing hormone level  
in body and untoward effects on hematopoietic function and  
immune system.